

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An oscillator circuit, comprising:
2 a crystal oscillator circuit adapted to oscillate
3 at approximately a predetermined frequency; and
4 a control circuit coupled to the crystal oscillator
5 circuit for controlling a current level at which the crystal
6 oscillator circuit operates, the control circuit selectively
7 switching the current level from a first current level to a
8 second current level different from the first current level
9 a predetermined period of time following an occurrence of an
10 event.

- 1 2. The oscillator circuit of claim 1, wherein:
2 the control circuit includes a timer circuit
3 capable of counting a predetermined period of clock pulses
4 applied to the timer circuit.

- 1 3. The oscillator circuit of claim 2, wherein:
2 the timer circuit includes a control signal and the
3 timer circuit may be placed in a predetermined state upon the
4 control signal being in a certain logic state.

1 4. The oscillator circuit of claim 1, wherein the
2 control circuit comprises:

3 at least two flip-flop circuits, at least one of
4 the at least two flip-flop circuits adapted to receive a
5 clock signal.

1 5. The oscillator circuit of claim 4, wherein the
2 control circuit includes a control input coupled to the at
3 least two flip-flop circuits, for selectively placing the
4 flip-flop circuits in one or more predetermined states when
5 the control input is in a logic state.

1 6. The oscillator circuit of claim 4, wherein a first
2 of the at least two flip-flop circuits includes an output
3 coupled to an input of a second of the at least two flip-flop
4 circuits.

1 7. The oscillator circuit of claim 1, wherein the
2 oscillator circuit further comprises a current source for
3 sourcing a current to or sinking a current from the crystal
4 oscillator circuit, the current source having a control input
5 that selectively controls a current level sourced to or sunk
6 from the crystal oscillator circuit, the control circuit
7 comprises a timer having a clock input and being adapted to
8 count a number of pulses of a signal appearing at the input
9 of the timer, and an output of the timer being coupled to the
10 control input of the current source.

1 8. The oscillator circuit of claim 7, wherein the
2 current source comprises a current mirror having a first leg
3 and a second leg coupled to the crystal oscillator circuit,
4 a current level in the first leg being set based upon a value
5 of the output of the timer.

1 9. The oscillator circuit of claim 7, wherein the
2 current source includes a transistor having a control
3 terminal coupled to the output of the timer, and a resistive
4 component disposed in a current path to which current is
5 sourced to or sunk from the crystal oscillator circuit, the
6 transistor having conductive terminals coupled across the
7 resistive component.

1 10. The oscillator circuit of claim 1, wherein the
2 control circuit comprises a timer circuit that is enabled to
3 count following a power-up sequence.

1 11. The oscillator circuit of claim 1, wherein the
2 control circuit comprises a timer circuit that is enabled to
3 count following the circuit switching to being powered by a
4 battery source.

1 12. A method for generating an oscillating signal,
2 comprising:

3 generating, at a first current level, an output
4 signal to oscillate between at least two voltage levels at
5 around a predetermined frequency, each voltage level
6 corresponding to a distinct logic state;

7 receiving an input signal having a value indicative
8 an occurrence of an event; and

9 after at least a predetermined period of time
10 following the input signal having the value indicative of the
11 occurrence of the event, generating, at a second current
12 level different from the first current level, the output
13 signal to oscillate at around the predetermined frequency.

1 13. The method of claim 12, further comprising counting
2 at least the predetermined period of time, wherein the step
3 of generating at the second current level follows the step
4 of counting.

1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising
2 receiving a clock signal, and the step of counting comprises
3 counting a predetermined number of cycles of the clock
4 signal.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the input signal
2 comprises a signal that resets at least one flip-flop
3 circuit.

1 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the second current
2 level is less than the first current level.

1 17. The method of claim 12, wherein the event is
2 completion of a power-up sequence.

1 18. The method of claim 12, wherein the event is a
2 change in power supply.

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1 19. A system, comprising:
2 circuitry responsive to at least one signal that
3 oscillates at approximately a predetermined frequency; and
4 oscillator circuitry adapted to generate the at
5 least one signal at a first current and, subsequent to
6 approximately a predetermined period of time after an
7 occurrence of an event, at a second current level different
8 from the first current level.

1 20. The system of claim 19, wherein the second current
2 level is less than the first current level.

1 21. The system of claim 19, wherein the event is a
2 power-up sequence.

1 22. The system of claim 19, wherein the event is power
2 being supplied to the system from a battery.

1 23. The system of claim 19, wherein the oscillator
2 circuitry comprises a timer circuit having at least two flip-
3 flop circuits, the at least two flip-flop circuits having a
4 control input for selectively placing the flip-flop circuits
5 in one or more predetermined states.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the at least two
2 flip-flop circuits are selectively placed in a reset state
3 based upon the value of the control input.

1 25. The system of claim 23, wherein the oscillator
2 circuitry further comprises a crystal oscillator circuit and
3 a current source coupled to the crystal oscillator circuit
4 so as to source current to or sink current from the crystal
5 oscillator circuit, a current level of the current source
6 being based upon a state of an output of the timer circuit.